

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2002 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon our citizens to learn more about the history of Asian/Pacific Americans and how they have contributed so much to our national heritage and culture.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

Proclamation 7551—Older Americans Month, 2002

May 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's strength and vitality reside in our citizens. Each year in May, we honor and recognize older Americans for their important sacrifices and contributions to our society. Our seniors have cared for their families and communities, enhanced our economic prosperity, defended our Nation, and preserved and protected the Founders' vision. Their commitment to our future sets an inspiring example for all. And their resilience, fortitude, and experience provide us with important perspectives and insights as we face the challenges of a new era.

The theme of this year's observance, "America: A Community for All Ages," reminds us that all citizens, regardless of age, are essential to successful and safe communities. The celebration also recognizes the extended role seniors play in our families, communities, and workplaces, as they live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. Drawing on their considerable knowledge and experience, older Americans mentor at-risk

children, deliver meals to homebound seniors, and care for frail or chronically ill family members. Others embark on exciting new careers or engage in challenging themselves in athletic competitions. In addition, many seniors have answered my call to service by becoming involved in the Senior Corps domestic service program, which is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

As we celebrate the lives of older Americans, we also renew our dedication to their well-being. My Administration strongly supports measures that protect the promise of retirement and healthcare security for seniors. We must modernize our Medicare and Medicaid programs so that seniors can access the best medicines and treatments. We must secure a good prescription drug benefit program for all our seniors. We must also continue to support medical research that is specifically targeted to the health problems of older Americans. By supporting flexible and innovative forms of long-term care, we can reduce the demands of caring for an elderly or disabled loved one. And we must strengthen financial security by protecting Social Security for today's retirees by encouraging private saving among all Americans, giving individuals more control over their investments.

This year's observance of Older Americans Month also marks the 30th anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program, one of our most vital, community-based programs for seniors. Managed by the Administration on Aging and supported by the private sector and countless nonprofit organizations, the program has provided nearly 6 billion meals to senior centers and other group settings and to those who are homebound. It has also provided nutrition counseling and opportunities for health screening. For many elderly, this program has made a tremendous impact on their quality of life.

By maintaining and improving programs that assist older Americans, we help these important citizens enjoy longer, healthier, and more productive lives. During this month, I join all Americans in paying tribute to the achievements and contributions of our greatest generation and reaffirming our commitment to their well-being.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2002 as Older Americans Month. I commend the national aging network of State, local, and tribal organizations, service and healthcare providers, caregivers, and millions of dedicated volunteers for your daily efforts on behalf of our senior citizens. I encourage all Americans to honor their elders, to seek opportunities to address their needs, and to work together to reinforce the bonds that unite families and communities. I also call upon all our citizens to publicly reaffirm our Nation's commitment to older Americans this month and throughout the year.

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The President's News Conference With European Union Leaders

May 2, 2002

President Bush It is a pleasure to welcome President Aznar and President Prodi to Washington, DC, for this summit. We had a good discussion on the common challenges facing the United States and the European Union, including the urgent need to fight terror and to promote peace in the Middle East.

Just one month ago I called on all the parties in the Middle East to step up to their responsibilities to end terror, to make progress toward peace, and to build better lives for all the people of the region. In recent days, we're beginning to see some signs of progress. The situation in Ramallah has been resolved nonviolently. We're working for peace in Bethlehem. I'm encouraged by my meeting with Crown Prince Abdullah and

the steps he has taken to advance his vision of peace. Next week I will meet with Prime Minister Sharon and King Abdullah of Jordan to discuss next steps on the road ahead.

The United States and the EU share a common vision of two states, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security. This vision offers the Palestinian people a new opportunity to choose how they live. We should take this opportunity to help build institutions that will serve the Palestinian people, a Palestinian state, and its neighbors as well.

A Palestinian state must be achieved by negotiating an end to occupation, but such a state cannot be based on a foundation of terror or corruption. A Palestinian state must be based on the principles that are critical to freedom and prosperity: democracy and open markets, the rule of law, transparent and accountable administration, and respect for individual liberties and civil society.

We want to work with the Palestinian people, our regional partners, and the international community to build a Palestinian state that both lives at peace with Israel and lives up to the best hopes of its people.

The EU, as well, and the United States, has an important role to play. When the EU and the United States work together, we multiply our effectiveness. Today we discussed our desires to continue working together. We see this in the fight against global terror, where we've been cooperating closely. We see this in the Balkans, where together we have solidified the peace, prevented civil war in Macedonia, and helped the region become more fully part of the European community. And we're working together to bring reconstruction and hope to Afghanistan, so that it never again serves as a haven for terror.

We must bring the same spirit of cooperation to our common economic agenda. Today I informed President Aznar and President Prodi that I will work with our Congress to fully comply with the WTO decision on our tax rules for international corporations. This will require both time, and it will require legislation. I hope and expect that we can all act in the same spirit of understanding as we work through other problems.